

MINUTES  
Board of Trustees  
Finance and Facilities Committee  
January 17, 2020, 1:15 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike McCoy, Ronnie Chronister, Missy Ming Smith, Senator Arthur Orr, Kim Troupe, Dr. Wanda Humphrey, Dr. Philip Way, Jonathan Craft, Kerry Warren, and Barbara Ferguson, reporting.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Debbie McGee, Aladin Beshir

Mr. Chronister called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm. After roll call, the committee reviewed the minutes from the October 18, 2019 meeting.

The only item of old business was an update on the Beaty-Mason home. Mr. McCoy informed the committee that, based on the discussions from the October board meeting, a resolution has been prepared and will be on the board agenda today to authorize Dr. Way to sell the Beaty-Mason home and property. He reminded the committee of the University's outreach to the community over the recent months to determine the best possible outcome for the University, the neighbors, and the preservation of this historic home. The members of the neighborhood have expressed that they want the home to remain a residence. All parties realize that it is not feasible for the University to continue with renovation costs when the University does not have a need to utilize the home as a residence.

The first item of new business was the financial summary for the quarter ended 12/31/2019. Mr. Craft indicated excess revenues over expenses is up approximately \$11,000 over this time last year. He indicated that the state appropriation shown reflects the additional appropriation for equalization funds recently received. There is an action item on today's board agenda to accept a budget amendment reflecting this additional state appropriation.

In the next item of new business, Mr. McCoy discussed the action item regarding the budget amendment on today's board agenda. He explained that the legislature recently awarded an additional appropriation for higher education equalization funds. Athens State received \$188,880. The University is proposing to use these funds to establish two new support positions in the areas of University Advancement and Information Technology. The Board will be asked to accept this amended budget reflecting this additional appropriation.

Next, Mr. Warren provided a brief update on campus projects. A handout was provided to committee members showing estimated plant fund expenditures by project for the current year and projected for the next 5 years. Mr. McCoy reminded the committee that the University had applied for Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) grants for the Nazaretian project and the Sandridge external maintenance project. Neither of these grants were awarded. He has revised the budget amounts to current estimates and this results in a deficit of \$750,000. Mr. McCoy indicated that it is possible that the University may be able to use some of the Advancement & Technology money from the special appropriation received in August 2019.

The final item of new business was a discussion of the board resolution on today's agenda for support of a joint project with the City of Athens and Limestone County for a multi-purpose events, training and innovation center on the Athens State University campus at the site of the current Carter Physical Education Center. Mr. McCoy provided some background on the interest in the project indicating that it was discussed in 2008 and again in 2014. Both times momentum failed due to the City and/or County not being able to commit financial resources. Interest in the project has renewed due to the

fact that the County no longer operates an event center and also new workforce development needs in the community increasing with new industry. Mr. McCoy indicated that even if this turns out not to be a joint project that the University must undertake a renovation of the Carter facility due to multiple ADA accessibility and code issues. The committee questioned the current use of the space by the University and the community. City of Athens Mayor Ronnie Marks and Limestone County Commission Chairman Collin Daly addressed the committee to indicate their support of this joint project and to address the needs for such a facility. Dr. Way addressed the specific types of workforce development training he sees for the future as well as the recent focus of the Alabama Community College System and ACHE on workforce development. He also discussed the Board's charge for him to make Athens State an anchor institution. He believes this joint project will help serve the goals of reciprocity and becoming an anchor for the community. He indicated that the purpose of today's resolution will be for the Board to give the green light to move forward to the next step in investigating this joint project.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.